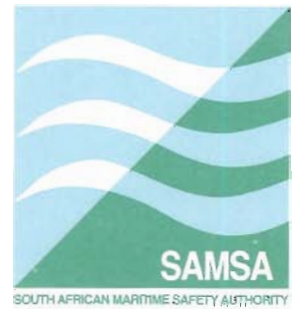


South African Maritime Safety Authority



Ref: SM 6/5/2/1
SM 1/5/4/2/1

Date: 14 April 2000

MARINE NOTICE NO. 12 OF 2000

TO ALL MASTERS, SKIPPERS, SHIPOWNERS, SHIP OPERATORS AND SHIP AGENTS

DISPOSAL OF MEDICAL AND OTHER BIOLOGICAL WASTES FROM SHIPS

- 1 Medical and other biological wastes fall within the definition of "harmful substance", the discharge of which into the sea is prohibited in terms of the Marine Pollution (Control and Civil Liability) Act, 1981 (Act No. 6 of 1981). The discharge into the sea of medical and other biological wastes having a plastic content is prohibited in addition by Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution by Ships, 1974 (MARPOL 74/78).
- 2 In terms of section 4 of Act 6 of 1981, the South African Maritime Safety Authority ("the Authority") has power to prevent pollution of the sea by harmful substances and to control the disposal of such harmful substances. In the exercise of that power, the Authority has issued the following instructions:
 - 2.1 Disposal of medical and other biological wastes may only be effected in one of the following ways:
 - (a) incineration in an approved shipboard incinerator (approved by the Authority in terms of Annex V to MARPOL); or
 - (b) disposal ashore to an approved waste disposal reception facility (approved by the Minister of Health in terms of applicable legislation).
 - 2.2 Care should be taken when handling and storing medical and other biological wastes on board ship. Protective gear and suitable, strong bags or containers, capable of being hermetically sealed, are to be placed on board for the handling and storage of such wastes during the voyage, and all bags and containers used for this purpose are to be clearly marked accordingly.
 - 2.3 The "Garbage Management Plan", required in terms of Annex V of MARPOL 74/78, must contain appropriate instruction to the master or skipper relating to handling, storage and disposal of medical and other biological wastes generated on board ship.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Safe Ships - Clean Seas

PO Box 13186 Hatfield 0028 South Africa

Tel +27 (0) 12 342 3049 Fax +27 (0) 12 342 3160

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